



# The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



## DESERT REIGN

Volume 76 No. 2

February 2020

*A pastor's thoughts on the kingdom of God.*

As I look out over the desert there are many plants and organisms that are amazing. And a common characteristic is the great age of much of the flora. Nature here seems to always take the long view of life. The natural world is constantly changing, although it seems to change slower in the desert. Compared to other places, where grain crops can be nurtured and grown in one season, and fruit trees can be nurtured and grown in just a few seasons, cacti require far longer.

Knowing how long it takes for desert plants to grow, I look up at the saguaro forest on the steep sides of the Santa Catalina Mountains and wonder what humans, our building and development, must look like to the natural world. Knowing there are cacti that have lived hundreds of years looking down into the valley, I wonder if the growth of Tucson has looked like a rising tide of building and growth, flowing right up to the foot of the mountains, and around. A hundred years ago almost none of it was here. What will be here a hundred years from now?

Two years ago I bought a giant blue agave and have kept it in a pot, hoping that I could nurture it and keep it healthy, but knowing it would be constrained. I even named it "Little Blue." But Little Blue grew more and more feeble and peaked. Unlike other plants that will eventually adjust to a constrained existence, large desert plants need more. So I planted Little Blue in a space in front of our house. While it took more than two years for Little Blue to start to shrivel, it only took a couple months to start thriving again. Even still, it will be several years till Little Blue grows into its own.

Often referred to as a "Century Plant," agave are a good example of the patience of desert fauna. The large agave varieties live a long time before they finally seed, shooting up a gigantic stalk that branches and flowers at the top. Once the flowers are pollinated and their seeds are released, the whole plant dies. It used to be thought, anecdotally, that a plant would be 100 years old when it sent out its stalk, but the actual age is around 25 years old. Still, it is impressive to think of, the whole existence of the plant is building up to that tremendous final act.

This sense of purpose in the life of an agave is inspiring. We can learn from this. I am not suggesting that we model it exactly, living solely to reproduce then die is not really a good human model. But a similar clarity of purpose drove Jesus in his ministry, though there were many people and things trying to pull him away from it. After a long day or so of healing, Luke tells us what Jesus did the next morning...

***At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose."***

Luke 4:42-43

The "good news of the kingdom of God" is the message of God's love, lived out in Jesus. The "good news" is that God loves you, and Jesus came to prove it. This is Jesus' proclamation, and later he sends his followers out to proclaim the same (Luke 10). We, as Jesus followers, are sent to do the same. May we live out this purpose with the focus and determination of the agave. Amen.

Peaceinallplaces,<><  
Pastor Jeff



## Council Corner

### January, 2020

The council would like to thank the OSLC members who attended the Sunday Forum Budget presentation on January 19. We appreciated the comments and questions we received. We also wish to thank the members who attended the OSLC Annual Congregational Meeting.



The council approved a Beer and Brats fund raiser on February 29th from 11AM – 1PM to assist San Juan Bautista in replacing their broken plumbing.

OSLC will be hosting the Grand Canyon Synod conference gathering on February 15th at 9AM. Members are encouraged to attend. The job description for the OSLC Youth Leader has been created and the search has begun.

**Report respectfully submitted,  
OSLC Church Council**

### *Music Ministry*

### *The program year continues!*

- The choir is rehearsing Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm.
- The handbell choir, led by Kathie Miller, is rehearsing Mondays at 6:30pm.
- For now our plans for youth handbells and children's choir are on hold, but they will be back soon.



Thank you to all our musicians for using your gifts in our community. And thank you to the community for your prayers and support during this time of transition.

*Music Ministry Continued*

Welcome JOSH NICHOLS, OLSC's New Music Leader!



Josh Nichols, native of Jackson, Mississippi, is an organist, conductor, composer, and performer. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Belhaven University in Organ Performance, a Master of Music in Organ Performance from Mississippi College, a Master of Music in Composition from the Florida Atlantic University, and studying for his doctorate from the University of Arizona in Composition. He has written both concert and commercial music, ranging from sonatas and concertos to advertisements and film music. Most recently, he wrote a Ballet titled "Stone and Light" which was premiered in April. He also has a Concertino for solo percussion and Wind Ensemble premiering in late February.

As an organist in the church, Josh observes the differences between performing for the congregation and accompanying in support of the congregation in worship. He believes that, in worship, music functions in a very specific way, and that way is not always aligned with the performance mentality of the 21st century, classically-trained musician or organist. He believes the goal of music in the church is to uplift and serve the congregation in their spirit, voice, and song.

Josh considers himself a collaborative musician, always striving to reach the maximum satisfaction of working together with musicians and performers. He believes that music is ultimately a relationship between composers, performers, and audience. When the motivations and spirit align between these three groups of people, the music becomes alive and shows light into an often dark and damp world.

Josh is married nine years to Anna, and has two children: Alina (5) and Olivia (2).

## *Community Outreach Events / Announcements*

### **Primavera Cooks**

This OSLC men's ministry, meets **February 12, at 2 p.m.** to cook in the Activity Building kitchen. The cooks then go to the Primavera Men's Shelter to serve the dinner. Women from the church are asked to bake bundt cakes to be served for dessert. If you can help cook the meal or bake a bundt cake, please contact Matthew Krueger at [matthewkrueger@yahoo.com](mailto:matthewkrueger@yahoo.com) or 520-241-4182 .



### **Mobile Meals of Tucson:**

Every Friday OSLC delivers meals from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. New volunteers are needed for the *second Friday of each month*. Training is supplied. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Patty Siris at 520.235.3527. A great way to represent OSLC & our community!



### **Casa Maria Soup Kitchen**

Our next Casa Maria Soup Kitchen project begins **March 7** around 8:00am in the Activity Building Kitchen and Cafe.

Please join our bologna sandwich makers and cookie baggers as we get it put together and help feed Tucson's homeless and less well-off. We're typically finished by 11am.

### **Fifth Sunday Fundays - Mark your calendars!**

Coming **March 29!** On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, (except when it is a holiday weekend), we will have one service combining elements of both services. The service will be at 8:30 AM, followed by a potluck brunch/lunch. Some getting to know you activities will happen, as the main focus will be getting to know one another. You are invited to sit with people you either don't know or want to get to know better! Looking forward to seeing you!

SUNDAY  
FUNDAY



## Community Outreach Events / Announcements Continued

### Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group and Arts Program.

The Arts Program for persons with dementia continues to meet at Our Saviour's in the Activity Building. The program will meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. This month's meeting date is **February 18**. Our Alzheimer/Dementia Caregiver Support Group will continue to meet at that same time and date, also in the Activity Building. Questions about the Caregiver Support Group can be addressed by calling the Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter at 800.272.3000.



*Since 1985 Interfaith Community Services has been creating connections between faith communities and volunteers to serve seniors, disabled persons and individuals in financial crisis.*

The **February Item of the Month** is **canned spaghetti sauce**. Please put all donations

in the shopping cart that is on the patio on Sundays. Thank you from all needy families in our Community. The ICS Food Bank thanks you for your continued support for the many people in our Community who go hungry every day.



## Women's Ministry

### CRAFTS IN SERVICE OF OUR COMMUNITY!

**Quilters** will meet on **Tuesday, February 18** at 9 a.m. A time-honored tradition continues! Please contact Kathie Miller, at [kmmmiller@hotmail.com](mailto:kmmmiller@hotmail.com) for further information.



**Knit & Crochet.** Join us on **Wednesday, February 5 & February 19** at 1:30 p.m. We have been making and delivering warm garments for the homeless and needy, and shawls for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Everyone is welcome to join us. We will gladly share our skills with beginners. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at 1:30 p.m. in Our Saviour's Activity Building. Newcomers are always welcome, and we always need more yarn!

# OSLC Church Calendar for February, 2020

Please find the most recent calendar events by clicking on Calendar on our main page: [www.lutherantucson.org](http://www.lutherantucson.org)



## FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>2 Chapel Worship 7:30 am Traditions Worship 9 am Sunday School 10:15 am AB Japanese Christian Community of Tucson 11 am Koch Folk Dancers 2 pm AB Café Tucson Dream Church 2 pm Koch Midtown Presbyterian Church 4 pm Sanctuary Over-Eater Anon 5:30 pm AB7</p>	<p>3 LSS Sewing Group 8 am AB Main LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 10 am Pocket Rm Mindfulness Meditation 1:30 pm AB4 Recorders 5 pm AB Via De Cristo 6:15 pm AB5 Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Sanctuary SLAA 7 pm AB5</p>	<p>4 Men's Bible Study 7:00 am Patio Rm Ballet 4:30 pm AB8 Spanish Class 6:30 pm AB Café</p>	<p>5 LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 9 am Pocket Rm Bible Study 10:30 am AB5 Music Library Work 11:30 am AB Café Knit &amp; Crochet 1:30 pm AB SAA 12 Step Group 7pm AB5</p>	<p>6 JCCT Men's Bible Study 5pm Koch Nar Anon 6:00 pm AB5 Chancel Choir 7pm Sanctuary</p>	<p>7 LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 9 am Pocket Rm Mobile Meals Offsite 12 Step Group AB5 Tucson Dream Church 7 pm Koch</p>
<p>9 Chapel Worship 7:30 am Traditions Worship 9 am Sunday School 10:15 am AB Japanese Christian Community of Tucson 11 am Koch Folk Dancers 2 pm AB Café Tucson Dream Church 2 pm Koch Midtown Presbyterian Church 4 pm Sanctuary Over-Eater Anon 5:30 pm AB7</p>	<p>10 LSS Sewing Group 8 am AB Main LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 10 am Pocket Rm TIHAN Classes 1 pm AB Café Mindfulness Meditation 1:30 pm AB4 Recorders 5 pm AB Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Sanctuary SLAA 7 pm AB5</p>	<p>11 Men's Bible Study 7:00 am Patio Rm Ballet 4:30 pm AB8 Spanish Class 6:30 pm AB Café Diakonia 6:30 pm AB5</p>	<p>12 LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 9 am Pocket Rm Bible Study 10:30 am AB5 Primavera 2 pm AB Kitchen SAA 12 Step Group 7pm AB5</p>	<p>13 ALS Mtg 12 pm Pocket Rm JCCT Men's Bible Study 5pm Koch Nar Anon 6:00 pm AB5 Chancel Choir 7pm Sanctuary</p>	<p>14 LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 9 am Pocket Rm Mobile Meals Offsite 12 Step Group AB5 Chick Flick 6 pm Tucson Dream Church 7 pm Koch</p>
<p>16 Chapel Worship 7:30 am Traditions Worship 9 am Japanese Christian Community of Tucson 11 am Koch Sunday School 10:15 am AB JL Out To Lunch 11:15 am Vans Folk Dancers 2 pm AB Café Tucson Dream Church 2 pm Koch Midtown Presbyterian Church 4 pm Sanctuary Over-Eater Anon 5:30 pm AB7</p>	<p>17 LSS Sewing Group 8 am AB Main LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 10 am Pocket Rm Mindfulness Meditation 1:30 pm AB4 Recorders 5 pm AB Café Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Sanctuary SLAA 7 pm AB5</p>	<p>18 Roadrunner Printing Men's Bible Study 7:00 am Patio Rm Quilters 9 am AB Main Alzheimer's Mtg 10 am Pocket Rm, AB5 Ballet 4:30 pm AB8 Spanish Class 6:30 pm AB Café Diakonia 6:30 pm AB5 Council Mtg 7 pm Patio Rm</p>	<p>19 Roadrunner Assembly LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 9 am Pocket Rm Bible Study 10:30 am AB5 Music Library Work 11:30 am AB Café Knit &amp; Crochet 1:30 pm AB SAA 12 Step Group 7pm AB5</p>	<p>20 JCCT Men's Bible Study 5pm Koch Nar Anon 6:00 pm AB5 Chancel Choir 7pm Sanctuary</p>	<p>21 LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 9 am Pocket Rm Mobile Meals Offsite 12 Step Group AB5 Tucson Dream Church 7 pm Koch</p>
<p>23 Chapel Worship 7:30 am Traditions Worship 9 am Sunday School 10:15 am AB Japanese Christian Community of Tucson 11 am Koch Folk Dancers 2 pm AB Café Tucson Dream Church 2 pm Koch Midtown Presbyterian Church 4 pm Sanctuary Over-Eater Anon 5:30 pm AB7</p>	<p>24 LSS Sewing Group 8 am AB Main LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 10 am Pocket Rm TIHAN Classes 1 pm AB Café Mindfulness Meditation 1:30 pm AB4 Recorders 5 pm AB SLAA 7 pm AB5</p>	<p>25 Men's Bible Study 7:00 am Patio Rm Ballet 4:30 pm AB8 Spanish Class 6:30 pm AB Café Diakonia 6:30 pm AB5</p>	<p>26 8:30 am Patio Rm LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 9 am Pocket Rm Bible Study 10:30 am AB5 Music Library Work 11:30 am AB Café SAA 12 Step Group 7pm AB5</p>	<p>27 JCCT Men's Bible Study 5pm Koch ALS Mtg 1 pm Patio Rm Nar Anon 6:00 pm AB5 Chancel Choir 7pm Sanctuary</p>	<p>28 LSS Refugee Employment Counseling 9 am Pocket Rm Mobile Meals Offsite 12 Step Group AB5 Tucson Dream Church 7 pm Koch</p>

*In the Spirit of Jesus, we grow in faith through worship and education while nurturing and serving God's Community.*





Friday	Saturday
<p>Employment g 10 am n s 11 am p 5:45 pm m Church n</p>	<p>1 SLAA 8:30 am Pocket Rm SAA 12-Step Mtg 1pm AB5 SOS Mtg 1:30 pm AB7</p>
<p>Employment g 10 am n s 11 am p 5:45 pm pm YC m Church n</p>	<p>8 SLAA 8:30 am Pocket Rm Diakonia 9 am AB5 SAA 12-Step Mtg 1pm AB5 SOS Mtg 1:30 pm AB7</p>
<p>Employment g 10 am n s 11 am p 5:45 pm m Church n</p>	<p>22 Diakonia 9 am AB5 SLAA 8:30 am Pocket Rm VASA Movie Event 12pm AB Cafe SAA 12-Step Mtg 1pm AB5 SOS Mtg 1:30 pm AB7</p>
<p>Employment g 10 am n s 11 am p 5:45 pm m Church n</p>	<p>29 SLAA 8:30 am Pocket Rm Diakonia 9 am AB5 SAA 12-Step Mtg 1pm AB5 SOS Mtg 1:30 pm AB7</p>

**OUR STAFF**

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**OUR WORSHIP TIMES**

7:30am—Chapel Communion  
9:00am—Traditions  
10:15am—Education & Fellowship

*Happy*  
**VALENTINE'S**  
DAY

This newsletter is published by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Do you have some news you would like to share with the congregation? Don't keep it a secret! Call the office or drop us an email and room-permitting, we'll try to get it in The Roadrunner for all to share!

Please read this edition of The Roadrunner and pass it on to someone you think might be interested in attending one of our many activities or joining us for worship.

Deadline for submission of articles or other information is the 15th of next month. For the Sunday Announcement page, the deadline is 5pm Tuesday prior to Sunday.





## *Community Outreach Events / Announcements Continued*

### *Experience "Ballet Plus"*



Are you thinking of doing something new and fun in 2020? Join Ms. Ellie's "Ballet Plus" Class and explore the World of Dance! Although the format is Senior-Focused, all are welcome. No experience necessary. Class is held 4:30-6:00 PM on Tuesdays in AB8. To register and/or get more information, call: 520-310-9871. Thank you!

### *Sincerest Thanks*

How blessed we are to have such caring friends. My family and I really appreciated all the phone calls, the cards, the notes and prayers during Albert's hospital stay and death. Thank you so much.

- June Williams and family



**Study** the Bible  
with us



### *Additional Opportunities*

**7 AM - Tuesday Men's Bible Study** meets weekly in the Patio Room. All men of Our Saviour's - please come join us for a spiritual lift! Please contact Dean Bell at 520.850.4135 for more information and any questions you may have.

**10:30 AM - Wednesday Bible Study** meets weekly in the AB8. Please come!



*Community Outreach Events / Announcements Continued  
For Life-Long Learning Experiences and Fellowship Fun*

**MINDFULNESS MEDITATION**

**Probing Paul's Peace** - "... the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding..." (Phil 4:7 NRSV). Join us in seeking both inner and world peacefulness every **Monday at 1:30 PM** in the Activity Building, Room AB4. Call Kevin 520-290-6949 for more information. Namaste.



**Nar-Anon Family And Friends Support**

**Group:** Nar-Anon is a support group for family and friends who know or have known a feeling of desperation concerning the addiction problem of someone very near to you. Our program is based on the twelve steps of Nar-Anon. We work closely with Narcotics Anonymous. We will respect your confidence and anonymity as we know you will respect ours. We hope to give you the assurance

that no situation is too difficult and no unhappiness is too great to overcome. Meets **weekly on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.** in the Activity Building. Please contact Mary at 520.237.1799 or Vicki at 520.668.9040 for information.

**SPANISH CLASS**

Weekly on Tuesdays, 6:30 PM in the AB, led by Pastor Mateo Chavez. Please contact the church office for any questions: 520-327-6521.





*Come One, Come All!*



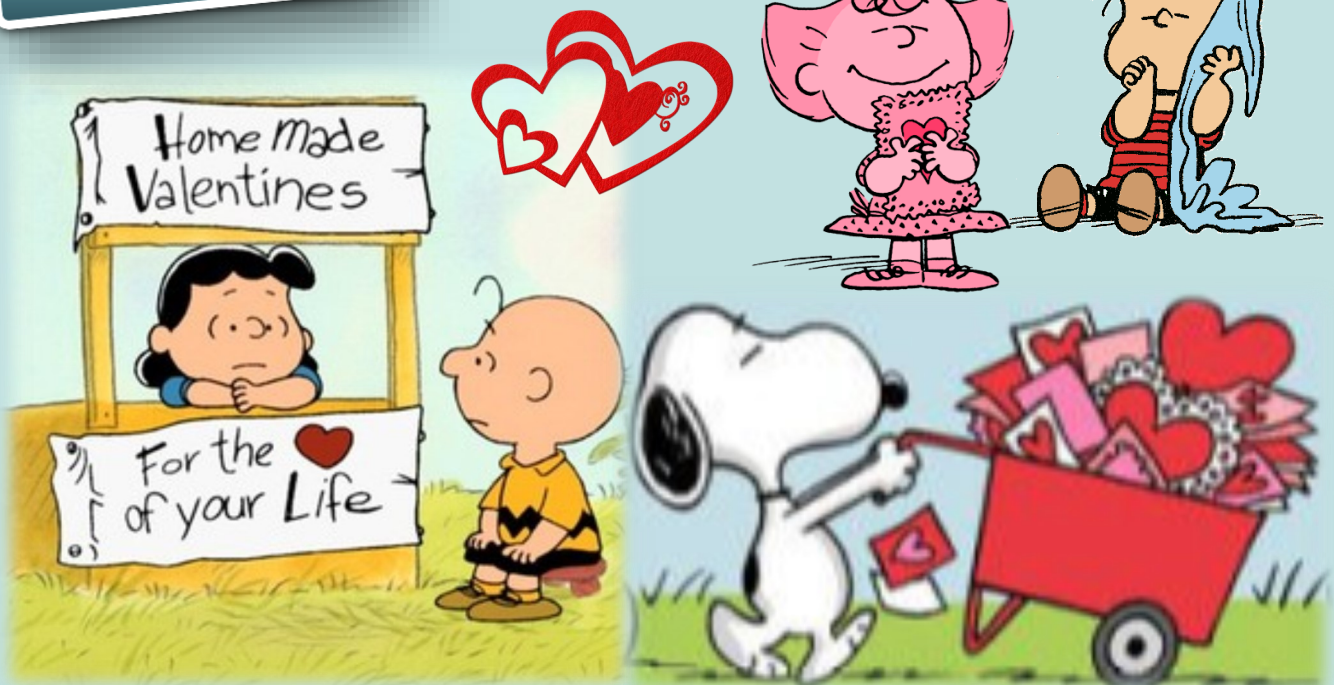
### U OF A FOOTBALL PARKING!

GOING TO A U of A GAME? Park at church and help our youth!

**Sunday School - 10:15 am!** 1yr olds thru 4 yr. olds accompanied with a parent or guardian meets in AB1. Kindergarteners – 8th graders meet today after worship in the Activity Building for opening prayer! High School youth meet in the Youth Center. Parents may pick up youth in the AB Sunday School hallway.



**SR. LEAGUE** high school **OUT TO LUNCH~** Sunday, February 16, 11:15 a.m. We'll decide where to go when we meet! Bring money for lunch! Let JJ Ryan know if you plan to attend.





## ELCA GRAND CANYON SYNOD Spring Gathering: Sunrise and Santa Cruz Conferences at OSLC

**Saturday, February 15 - 9:00 AM in AB Main**



From [www.gcsynod.org](http://www.gcsynod.org): “All lay and rostered people (active and retired) are invited to attend the Grand Canyon Synod’s Spring Conference Gatherings. The topic “Charting the Course (Guided by the Holy Spirit!)” is based on the book *Canoeing the Mountains*, by Tod Bolsinger. This gathering will be led by leaders lay and rostered.”

We hope you’ll join us for these informative conferences given by the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America!

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## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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Hello Everyone!

## News From the Office

By Kathryn Barrera,  
Parish Administrator

Whew! January flew by like a flash. Preparing and printing the annual report and then getting ready for the congregational meeting kept us busy busy busy. Thank you all for your attendance and participation in the meeting. We so appreciate your feedback in and insight on how we can improve as a church. February is kicking off smoothly and all the groups and meetings are officially back in session at their usual times. Check the website for a full listing of our events on the calendar page.

That's all for now.  
Have a wonderful month and Happy Valentine's Day!



- Kathryn

